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1983

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Foreign Broadcast Information Service came under new leadership in January when [] after three years as director, left for reassignment in another directorate. [] deputy, [] an FBIS careerist, succeeded him. In the first of several high-level appointments of technical managers to senior FBIS positions, DDS&T Hineman named [] as [] deputy. [] previously deputy director of ORD, would help oversee planning by staffers and contractors for the FBIS Modernization Program, scheduled to start in FY-84. The FBIS budget increased to [] more than double what it was when FBIS was transferred to the DS&T from the DI in 1976. A [] increase pushed the FBIS staff [] for the first time since 1969. The initial phase of the FBIS headquarters MIDAS automation project introduced electronic word processing to the FBIS Wire Service and two of the eight regional Daily Reports. The MIDAS contractor, Logicon, Inc., continued work to incorporate additional functions. The small Field Coverage Staff was upgraded to Monitoring Operations Division, with responsibility for guiding field collection in the satellite era. In the field, London Bureau's new receive-only satellite earth terminal took over from Okinawa Bureau responsibility for monitoring Soviet press facsimile transmissions. The first of several one-person Science and Technology Units opened []

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1984

Foreign Broadcast Information Service, Under Director []
[] saw its FY-84 spending increase to [] for the first
year of its Modernization Program. Several major decisions were made
affecting the nature of the program. First, office automation planners
decided to discontinue development of the limited MIDAS system and begin
developing a new and more robust information-handling capability, which
eventually would use the bulk of available modernization funds. Second,
initial plans for an FBIS all-site satellite communications network were
cut back, first to five sites and then to three--headquarters, Panama,
and London. The staff t/o increased []. In August, []
[] of OD&E was named to succeed [] as []
deputy. As a result of [] unexpected departure to become head of
OTS, [] postponed his retirement by a year so the new deputy could
become familiar with the office before succeeding him. In December
Panama Bureau became the third FBIS site with dish antennas to monitor
satellites.

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1985

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Foreign Broadcast Information Service made considerable strides in 1985 under Director [] and Deputy Director []. At mid-year, following intensive internal study of automation requirements and options, Lockheed Electronics Corp. was selected as contractor for the major new information-handling and retrieval system, later named the Automated FBIS System. To support the various technical initiatives under way at FBIS headquarters and in the field, Engineering Support Group was established on 1 September with three divisions: Field Engineering, Headquarters Systems Maintenance and Engineering, and Advanced Development. [] from the Office of Communications, served as its chief for the next five years. Intelsat approved the lease of an Atlantic satellite transponder for the proposed Internet communications network linking FBIS headquarters with its bureaus in England and Panama. At CIA Headquarters an FBIS-operated satellite dish began supplying monitorable live foreign television programs to Langley analysts, while FBIS bureaus began supplying by air courier videotapes of telecasts from five foreign capitals only monitorable overseas. Late in the year Bangkok Bureau became the fourth FBIS satellite-monitoring facility. For the second year of the Modernization Program, the FBIS budget increased to []

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million, and the staff increased from [redacted] Units were
opened in Antwerp and Milan to exploit European technical publications
and commercial data bases, a category of media new to FBIS. Employees
were shocked by the arrest on 22 November of retired language officer
Larry Wu-tai Chin on charges of spying for his native China. [redacted]
scheduled for retirement in a matter of weeks, spent much of his
remaining time attempting to limit the damage to FBIS.

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1986

Foreign Broadcast Information Service in 1986 underwent two changes of directors in less than 10 months, unprecedented in its 45 years. As planned, after a year and a half as deputy director [redacted] became director when [redacted] retired in January. At the same time, FBIS careerist [redacted], succeeded [redacted] as deputy director. [redacted] began preparing FBIS for its move to Reston from Rosslyn, its home for 20 years since moving from the District of Columbia. Automation plans also had to be adjusted to the new site. Due to a budget squeeze, [redacted] closed the seven-year-old Gulf Bureau in Bahrain and decided to install personal computers at field bureaus rather than the more expensive computers ordered for headquarters automation. [redacted] retired on 12 September, the day after turning 50. DDS&T Hineman chose as his successor [redacted] deputy at ORD. A Science and Technology Center, with division status, was established to consolidate the handling of foreign S&T information among headquarters and the three overseas S&T Units. An FBIS-OCR memorandum delineated responsibilities for exploiting foreign data bases. The FBIS FY-86 budget increased to [redacted] of which [redacted] was for the Modernization Program, while the staff t/o increased [redacted]

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1987

Foreign Broadcast Information Service achieved several milestones in 1987 under Director [REDACTED]. A visibly new era began in the summer when headquarters components moved to Reston, where the newly delivered computer terminals of the Automated FBIS System awaited their debut in the paperless production of Daily Reports and other unclassified publications. The automation contractor, Lockheed Electronics Corp., continued work on a separate computer system for classified information. Austria Bureau became the first field facility to handle information with computers. FBIS spending reached [REDACTED] on modernization--and the [REDACTED] record highs resulting from steady annual growth since the late 1970s. In the field, the Internet communications system began operating in January, with London Bureau relaying Moscow television to CIA Headquarters via leased satellite channel. Panama Bureau later began Internet operations but had to cease on order of the Panamanian Government. Director [REDACTED] traveled to Cyprus in the spring for the opening of a new, more secure Nicosia Bureau building. One-person contract monitoring units were established in Port-au-Prince and Manila.

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1988

Foreign Broadcast Information Service spent much of 1988 adjusting to the new electronic work environment at its new building [redacted] where the unclassified segment of the Automated FBIS System permitted higher production levels and new ways of handling information. FBIS spending amounted to [redacted] only slightly more than in the previous year, while the staff t/o dropped by [redacted]. London Bureau began relaying Soviet press facsimile material [redacted] via the Internet system. Cologne Unit was closed following the determination that the FBIS relationship [redacted] was not worth the resources spent to maintain it. Deputy Director [redacted], retired in April and was succeeded by [redacted] of FBIS.

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1989

Foreign Broadcast Information Service reached a long-awaited goal on 30 January 1989 when it inaugurated the classified segment of the Automated FBIS System, under development by Lockheed since 1985. Bigger and more complicated than the unclassified segment of AFS introduced in 1987 for the production of publications, the classified system provided multipurpose computer terminals for all FBIS headquarters components. The FBIS Modernization Program formally ended as a separate category of the FBIS budget on 30 September, the close of the fiscal year. Remaining work on field automation, involving the installation of computers for information handling at some bureaus, would be paid for from future annual operating budgets. At [redacted], the FY-89 budget was more than \$1 million smaller than in the previous year--marking the first no-growth year since the mid-1970s. Headed by [redacted], the FBIS staff remained at [redacted] in 1987. An Off-Premises Unit was established to provide additional contractor capability to translate Soviet press information. Field bureaus were supplied with facsimile equipment to speed up delivery to headquarters of selected priority press articles. When a series of employee strikes at BBC Monitoring disrupted the timely receipt in Washington of information

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on the Soviet Union, FBIS prepared contingency plans to monitor primary Soviet broadcasts in the event of future trouble at the BBC. Other plans were prepared for the celebration in 1991 of the 50th anniversary of FBIS.

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